

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD #1

MARVEL

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**

ACT TWO

ILLUSTRATED BY
DALIBORTALAJIC



NYC UNDEAD UPDATE!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE



PENNY JONES



PAUL BARNUM



XAVIER

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE VIA THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE AND HIS CABAL OF SECRET VAMPIRES!

PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND ZOMBIE WRANGLER PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME A ZOMBIE (AND FORMER SWAT OFFICER) NAMED XAVIER WHO NOT ONLY EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE BUT SHOWED COMPASSION, SAVING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO.

HOWEVER, IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS...THERE IS DIVISION IN THE VAMPIRE RANKS AS MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S OWN NEPHEW BILL MAKES MOVES AGAINST HIM...A WOMAN WAS ATTACKED BY A PAIR OF ROGUE VAMPIRES AND TAKEN TO PENNY'S HOSPITAL...AND A BAND OF SOUTHERN REBELS LED BY DIXIE PEACH PLAN TO OVERTAKE NYC.

NEW YORK REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE. BE PREPARED. STAY VIGILANT.
AIM FOR THE BRAIN.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 
CITY COUNCIL FOR SECURITY:

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UNDERNEATH THE AFENA.



JUST STOPPING
BY TO SEE WHAT
SORT OF PROGRESS
YOU'VE BEEN
MAKING.

NEW
RECRUITS.
EARLY
STAGES.

THIS ISN'T
PROGRESS. EVERYONE
KNOWS THESE CREATURES
ARE VIOLENT. ALL YOU'VE
DONE IS TRAIN THEM TO
USE WEAPONS! *BARBARIC*
WEAPONS, AT THAT.

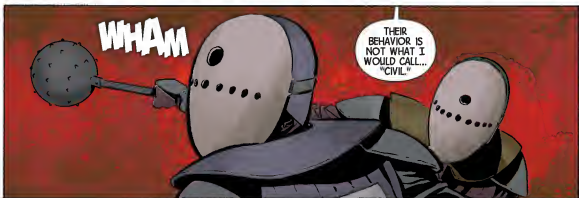
DR.
JONES
BELIEVES
THAT--

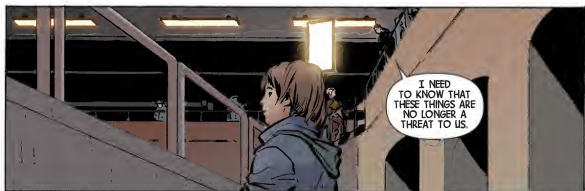
IT
KEEPS THEM
OCCUPIED...

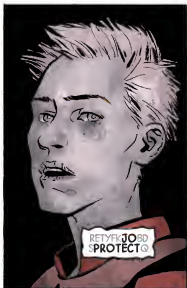
XAVIER

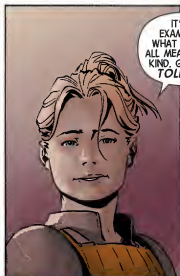
...AND
IT TEACHES
THEM TO BE
DISCIPLINED.

WHO
ARE YOU?









IT'S AN
EXAMPLE OF
WHAT WE WERE
ALL MEANT TO BE.
KIND. GENEROUS.
TOLERANT.



THAT'S THE
WAY I WANT YOU
TO BE WITH ME. KIND.
GENEROUS. AND MOST
OF ALL...TOLERANT.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.



ENOUGH!

HEH...
LILITH SEEMS
TO THINK...



SHE SEEMS TO THINK
YOU'RE...ATTRACTED
TO ME.

SHE'S NOT
MISTAKEN.



THAT IS
ENOUGH.



LANGOON'S PUB.

I HAVE ONE
BAD EYE BUT MY
OTHER EYE CAN STILL
SEE! AND IT SEES A
CITY THAT HAS GONE
TO RUIN...UNDER
THIS PRESENT
ADMINISTRATION.

SO I'M ASKING
FOR YOUR VOTE
TO ELECT ME AS THE
MAYOR OF
NEW YORK.

JUST
MORE OF THE
SAME.

NOTHIN'S
GONNA
CHANGE.

NOTHIN' EVER
CHANGES. 'CEPT
FOR
YOU AND ME. WE
GET OLDER.



I'LL PUT
A STOP TO BIG
SPENDING, A STOP TO
BIG ENTITLEMENTS,
A STOP TO BIG CITY
GOVERNMENT!

GOOD.
THAT IS A
GOOD THING
TO SAY.

I MIGHT
BE RELATED TO
RONALD CHANDRAKE, BUT
I AM NO...**RONALD**
CHANDRAKE!!!



BOSS, IS IT NOT **DANGEROUS**
FOR BILL TO BE SAYING
THINGS LIKE THAT?

YES, IT IS.
COMPLETELY
AND CERTAINLY AND
WONDERFULLY
DANGEROUS.

PERHAPS HIS
UNCLE WILL
WANT TO MAKE
HIM...BE QUIET.

THAT IS
CORRECT, BIG
LOUIE...



I'M
COUNTING
ON IT...

UNDER THE ARENA



HEY! I
LOST MY KEY.
MIGHTA GOT
STOLE.

NOT LIKELY.
WHO'D WANNA
GET INTO THIS
LOONY BIN?



HUH?



DKKEYUOH



AWESOME!

YOU CAN GET
OUTTA HERE
WHENEVER YOU
WANT!

CLK



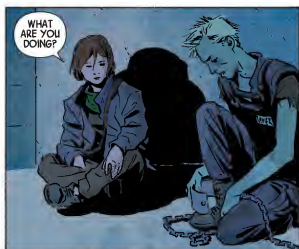
DOES THAT
KEY UNLOCK ALL
THE CHAINS, OR
JUST YOURS?

EPALLPBD

ALL THE
LOCKS...ON ALL
THE CHAINS.



AND
YOU COULD
LET ALL YER
BUDDIES LOOSE.
IF YOU
WANTED
TO.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

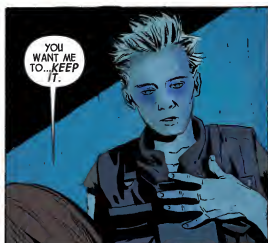


YOU'RE
LOCKING
YOURSELF
BACK IN.

CLK



Y-YOU
WANT ME
TO...HAVE
THIS?



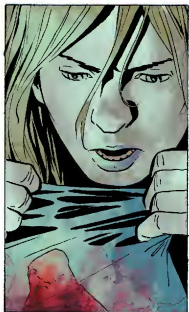
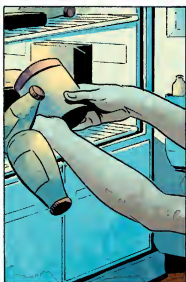
YOU
WANT ME
TO...KEEP
IT.



I WILL.
I'LL KEEP
IT. KEEP IT
SAFE.

UNTIL THE
DAY WHEN
YOU NEED IT
AGAIN.

COLUMBIA HOSPITAL.





ZZZZZZZZ



WHU...
HUH? MELODY,
Y-YOU'RE
WALKING!

THAT'S
WHAT PEOPLE
DO, ISN'T IT?
GOOD MORNING,
MOTHER.



GOOD LORD,
WHAT HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING?

I...I...
DON'T
KNOW...

I DON'T
KNOW...WHERE
I'VE BEEN. WHAT
I'VE DONE. SCARY.
IT'S ALL...ALL A
BLANK.

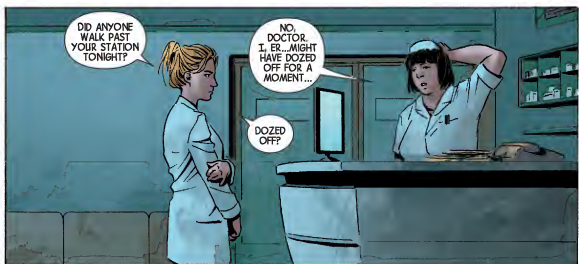
ALL I KNOW IS...
I FEEL **STRONG**.
STRONGER THAN I HAVE
FELT FOR A LONG...
LONG TIME.



STRONG...AND AT
THE SAME TIME...
EXHAUSTED.



MELODY?
MELODY!



CHANDRAKE'S APARTMENT.



ON OUR
SIDE OF THE
TUNNEL, TWO
BORDER GUARDS
WERE SHOT
AND KILLED.

NOW, ON
THE JERSEY
SIDE, A TOLL
BOOTH HAS BEEN
DESTROYED.



DESTROYED?



VAPORIZED.



TERRORISTS.
SHOULD I BE
WORRIED?

IT'S MY
JOB TO DO
THE WORRYING.
I JUST FELT
THAT YOU
SHOULD BE
INFORMED.



THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU
LIKE A DRINK?

I APPRECIATE
THE OFFER, SIR.
BUT NO. IT MIGHT
REDUCE MY ABILITY...
TO WORRY.

NEWARK,
NEW JERSEY.



IT'S GETTIN'
TO BE MORNIN'.
WE BEST TUCK IN
SOMEWHERE.

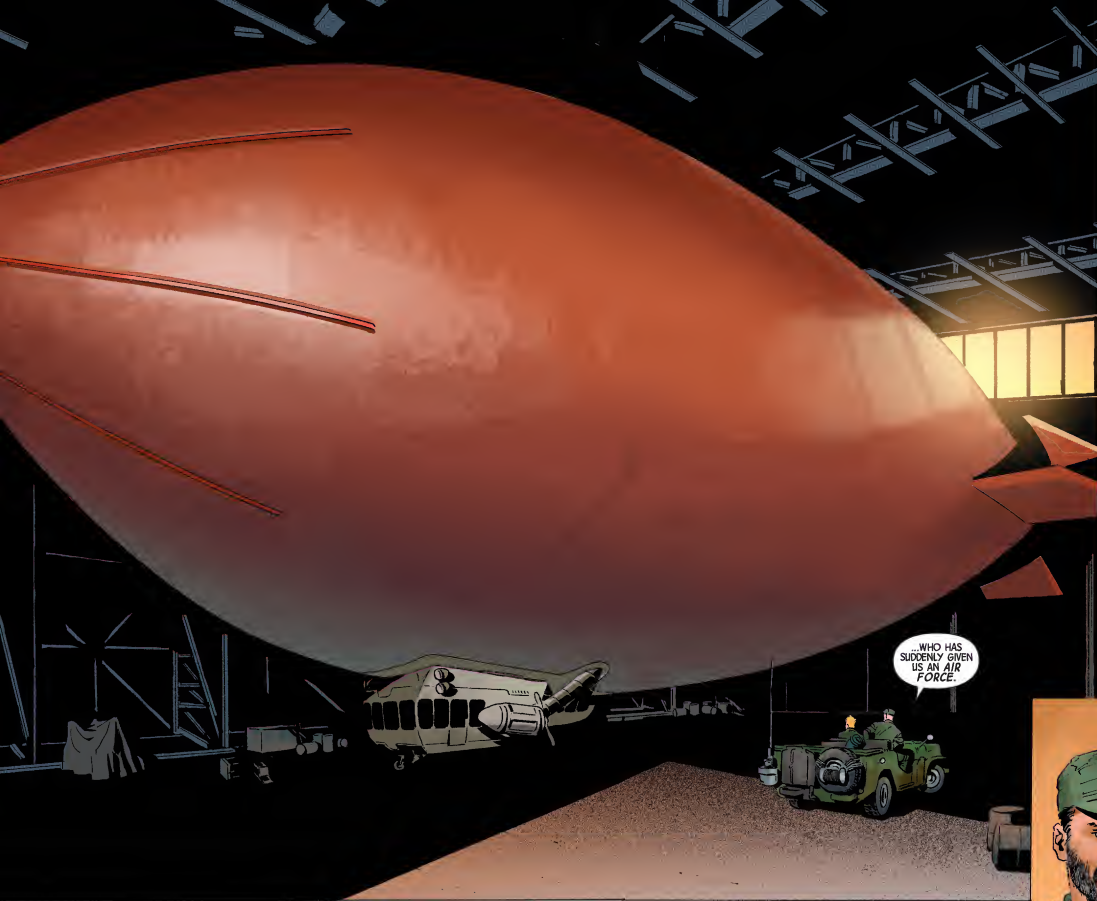


HOW DOES
ALL THESE
VEHICLES JUST...
TUCK IN?

THIS IS A
WAREHOUSE
DISTRICT. WE'LL
FIND US A
WAREHOUSE.



PRaise THE
LORD...

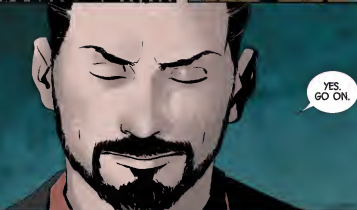




UPTOWN.

NEVER HAD A
POLICE ESCORT
BEFORE.









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